

2008 Consumer Confidence Report

Water System Name: MD-10A, Madera Ranchos

Report Date: 5/22/09

We test the drinking water quality for many constituents as required by state and federal regulations. This report shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 - December 31, 2008.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Type of water source(s) in use: Four deep wells drawing from an underground aquifer were used in 2008

Name & location of source(s): Charlton, Fernwood, New Fender, and Old Fender Wells are located within the Maintenance District. Also within the district, but unused in 2008 is the Sparta Well.

Drinking Water Source Assessment information: Conducted in April 2003 for each of the five wells. Several activities were identified as being associated with detected contaminants including: historic waste dumps/landfills, military installations, irrigated crops, high density housing and local septic systems. The contaminants identified are: manganese (naturally occurring at the Fender Well, but can be associated with historic dumps, landfills, and junkyards), nitrate (at the Fender, Fernwood, and Sparta Wells; often associated with septic systems, but can also be associated with historic agricultural practices), and gross alpha (naturally occurring at the Fernwood Well, but can be associated with military installations, medical or veterinary offices). The levels of nitrate found at the Fernwood and Fender Wells are below the drinking water standards, but in the last three years concentrations have exceeded the maximum contaminant level on several occasions at the Sparta Well. Test results for the Sparta well are not included in this annual report since it was not in use. Manganese (Fender Well) and gross alpha (Fernwood Well) both occurred at levels below the maximum contaminant level and, in the case of manganese, even fell below the minimum reporting level. The assessments also identified the following activities as having the potential for outside contamination even though no contaminants associated with these activities were found: other wells in the area, gas stations, and streets or roads. A copy of the complete assessment may be viewed at the Madera County Environmental Health Department, or by visiting the State's website, www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/technical/dwp/sourceinfo/sourceindex.htm.

Time and place of regularly scheduled board meetings for public participation: Meetings are held at 9:00 a.m. each Tuesday, except the fifth Tuesday of any month, at the Board of Supervisors' Chambers: 200 W 4th Street, Madera. Visit the County website, www.madera-county.com/supervisors/agenda.html for a copy of the agenda.

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TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

Public Health Goal (PHG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS): MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

Secondary Drinking Water Standards (SDWS): MCLs for contaminants that affect taste, odor, or appearance of the drinking water. Contaminants with SDWSs do not affect the health at the MCL levels.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Regulatory Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Variances and Exemptions: Department permission to

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):

The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):

The level of a disinfectant added for water treatment below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

exceed an MCL or not comply with a treatment technique under certain conditions.

ND: not detectable at testing limit

ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/L)

ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/L)

ppt: parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radiation)

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- *Microbial contaminants*, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- *Inorganic contaminants*, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- *Pesticides and herbicides*, that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- *Organic chemical contaminants*, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.
- *Radioactive contaminants*, that can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the USEPA and the state Department of Public Health (Department) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Department regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 list all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the most recent sampling for the constituent. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The Department allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the data, though representative of the water quality, are more than one year old.

TABLE 1 - SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF COLIFORM BACTERIA

Microbiological Contaminants (to be completed only if there was a detection of bacteria)	Highest No. of detections	No. of months in violation	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source of Bacteria
Total Coliform Bacteria	(In a Mo.) 0	0	More than 1 sample in a month with a detection	0	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform or <i>E. coli</i>	(In the Year) 0	0	A routine sample and a repeat sample detect total coliform and either sample also detects fecal coliform or <i>E. coli</i>	0	Human and animal fecal waste

TABLE 2 - SAMPLING RESULTS SHOWING THE DETECTION OF LEAD AND COPPER

Lead and Copper (to be completed only if there was a detection of lead or copper in the last sample set)	No. of samples collected	90 th percentile level detected	No. sites exceeding AL	AL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb) – 9/07	10	<5	0	15	2	Internal corrosion of household water plumbing systems; discharges from industrial manufacturers; erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm) – 9/07	10	.175	0	1.3	0.3	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives

TABLE 3 - SAMPLING RESULTS FOR SODIUM AND HARDNESS

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Sodium (ppm)	6/08	24	13.1 – 33.6	None	None	Generally found in ground & surface water
Hardness (ppm)	6/08	89.5	58 – 132	None	None	Generally found in ground & surface water

*Any violation of an MCL or AL is marked with an asterisk. Additional information regarding the violation is provided later in this report.

TABLE 4 - DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A PRIMARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL [MRDL]	PHG (MCLG) [MRDLG]	Typical Source of Contaminant
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	2007	0.875	<1.0 – 1.5	15	(0)	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined Radium 226 & 228	2/17, 5/10, 8/16 & 11/22/05	1.01	ND-1.48	2	0	Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic (ppb)	6/08	2.98	2.2 – 3.8	10	.004	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; glass & electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	6/08	0.23	0.12 – 0.31	10	2	Discharges of oil drilling wastes and from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	6/08	2.65	0 – 6	50	(100)	Discharge from steel and pulp mills and chrome plating; erosion of natural deposits
Flouride (ppm)	6/08	0.18	0.1 – 0.2	2	1	Erosion from natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate (ppm)	6/08	19.3	13.6 – 29.1	45	45	Runoff and leaching from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks and sewage; erosion of natural deposits

TABLE 5 - DETECTION OF CONTAMINANTS WITH A SECONDARY DRINKING WATER STANDARD

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Range of Detections	MCL	PHG (MCLG)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Aluminum (ppb)	6/08	121.8	<100 – 487	200	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; residual from some surface water treatment processes
Chloride (ppm)	6/08	44.1	13.7 – 76.9	500	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; seawater influence
Iron (ppb)	6/08	1012.5*	<100 – 4050	300	N/A	Naturally-occurring organic materials

SEC (µMHO/cm)	3 & 6/08	320	190 – 460	1600	N/A	Substances that form ions when in water; seawater influence
Sulfate (ppm)	6/08	4.9	4.1 – 5.6	500	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits; industrial wastes
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	2007	240	180 – 290	1000	N/A	Runoff/leaching from natural deposits
Turbidity (units)	6/08	3.6	0.1 - 14	5	N/A	Soil runoff

TABLE 6 - DETECTION OF UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Chemical or Constituent (and reporting units)	Sample Date	Level Detected	Notification Level	Health Effects Language
Chromium, Hexavalent (ppb)	2 & 8/03	1.45	N/A	N/A
Vanadium (ppb)	5/14/03	22-24	50	The babies of some pregnant women who drink water containing vanadium in excess of the notification level may have an increased risk of developmental effects, based on studies in laboratory animals

*Any violation of an MCL, MRDL, or TT is asterisked. Additional information regarding the violation is provided later in this report.

Additional General Information on Drinking Water

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Summary Information for Contaminants Exceeding an MCL, MRDL, or AL, or a Violation of Any Treatment Technique or Monitoring and Reporting Requirement

We are required by drinking water regulations to *monitor* your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. The results of regular monitoring are indicators of whether or not your drinking water meets all health standards. The Madera Ranchos water system had one primary MCL violation and you should be aware of the following information. **Iron:** is not hazardous to health, but it is considered a secondary or aesthetic contaminant.

The source water for this system contains levels of Iron higher than the EPA's MCL. These levels are due to leaching of natural deposits. As shown in Table 5, the Madera Ranchos water system had one violation; the Iron level exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). We will be moving forward to correct this violation and the process of getting community input and support for the much needed improvements for your water system. Though we've learned through our monitoring and testing that some other contaminants have been detected, the EPA has determined that your water IS SAFE at these levels.

The new Kensington Well will be going on-line by August 2009, in time to help alleviate low pressure issues that occur during the summer peak demand period. Even with this new well being put on-line, prudent use of water and conservation practices need to be followed as the water table continues to drop which has caused reduced production by all system wells

We hope you find this report informative and helpful. Please call our office if you have questions. The County of Madera works continuously to provide the best available water to every tap. We ask that you, our customers, help us protect our water sources. Water is the heart of our community, our way of life, and our future.